



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

June 2, 2006

# News Release

## **ICE and local police arrest 10, seize assault weapons and luxury vehicles, in operation targeting area drug trafficking ring**

SAN DIEGO – In a pre-dawn operation yesterday, federal and local law enforcement officers, including SWAT teams, fanned out across neighborhoods in south San Diego, arresting 10 individuals with suspected ties to a local cross-border drug trafficking organization.

The arrests are part of a joint investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Chula Vista Police Department, and seven other law enforcement agencies targeting a drug distribution network that included several local street gang members.

In addition to the arrests, agents executed eleven state search warrants at the homes where the suspects were encountered. The searches uncovered drugs, assault weapons, cash, and several luxury vehicles, including a late model Hummer and BMW.

“This investigation is a good example of ICE partnering with local law enforcement to target criminal organizations that threaten the safety of our communities,” said Frank Marwood, acting special agent in charge for the ICE office of investigations in San Diego. “Our broad legal authorities allow us to stop these people who commit a variety of criminal offenses. That is what ICE is all about.”

The targeted organization is believed to be involved in smuggling cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine from Mexico into the United States. The investigation began after agents received intelligence about the existence of a possible cocaine trafficking ring. The ensuing probe revealed the organization was involved in a variety of other crimes as well, including using stolen credit card numbers and utilizing a sophisticated cross-border vehicle theft ring.

In addition to the 10 arrests made yesterday, seven other suspects linked to the organization have been taken into custody during the past eight months and the investigation is ongoing.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*